

Preliminary Amendment under Rule 1.53(b), dated and throughout 30 September
2003

REMARKS/AGRUMENTS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in the application.
Claims 1-4 and 10-21 are canceled, without prejudice by this
response.

Claims 1-4 and 10-21 are canceled so that the remaining
claims 5-9 are limited a group of claims which in the prior
application the Examiner has posited to be a different invention.

The filing of the divisional application of which this
amendment is part include photocopies of a Petition under 37 CFR
§ 1.102(c) in the prior application for accelerated advancing of
prosecution, and of the decision paper by the Director of
Technology Center 17 according such status. This decision
included the claims 5-9 remaining herein, and it is submitted
that this application should also be accorded special status.

Early consideration, including a favorable determination to
accord the present invention special status with prosecution
advanced out of turn for examination, is respectfully requested.

Title: Chromate-Free Method for Surface
Etching of Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys

Attorney Docket No. 84841

Preliminary Amendment under Rule 1.53(b), dated and throughout 30 September
2003

The Examiner is invited to telephone Michael F. Oglo,
Attorney for Applicant, at 401-832-4736 if, in the opinion of the
Examiner, such a telephone call would serve to expedite the
prosecution of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAYNE C. TUCKER ET AL

9 September 2003

By Michael F. Oglo
MICHAEL F. OGLO
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 20464